OWNERS MANUAL
MP-A SERIES tm

A Designs

A Designs Audio LLC ***"Quality without Compromise"***

P.O. Box 4255 ● West Hills, CA 91304 USA ● (818)716-4153● www.adesignsaudio.com

WARNING!

Before you start your new MP-A Series True Tube Microphone preamp please read the following:

ANY real tube product is sensitive to a high SPL environment. This may cause microphonics in a recording situation. Make sure you are able to shock mount and or place the unit in isolation if need be. Direct light will also effect tubes as well.

PLEASE be sure to have at least one rack space between any tube products from the product above and below the unit. This will ensure your tube unit will not over heat. Over heating will cause damage to the tubes and shorten their life span. If possible place, the MP-A Series unit in the top rack space to allow air flow.

If you have received your unit via UPS/Fed-Ex/DHL, or any other courier, your MP-A should have been double boxed for protection. If it was not double boxed, please contact your dealer and return the unit to them for a replacement.

We demand ALL our units to be double boxed to help prevent damages during shipping.

Thank you,

Peter Montessi
President
A Designs Audio LLC

LEGAL NOTICE

Fill out and Return Warranty Card to A Designs. Warranty begins the day of purchase. Your name will be placed on our mailing list (unless otherwise requested) for future updates and new product announcements.

A Designs reserves the right to make improvements or changes at any time to this product.

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WARNING: Removing Cover Will Void Your Warranty.

1 Year Limited Warranty Internal Parts, 30-Day Limited Warranty Labor, 30-Day Limited Warranty Tubes

A Designs warrants that our hardware conforms substantially to the specifications contained in this manual when used in accordance these specifications for a period of 1 year from the date of original purchase from A Designs or its authorized dealers. In case of a valid warranty claim, your sole and exclusive remedy and A Designs' entire liability under any theory of liability will be, at its option, to repair or replace the product without charge, or, if not possible, to refund the purchase price to you. The warranty is not transferable and applies only to the original purchaser of the product.

For warranty service, contact A Designs Audio at 818-716-4153 to obtain a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number. After obtaining the RMA number, ship defective product to A Designs Audio, P.O. Box 4255, West Hills, CA 91304. Write RMA number on outside of shipping box. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, copy of original sales invoice and detailed description of the problem. A Designs Audio will not accept responsibility for loss or damage in shipping.

Warranty is void if product serial numbers have been removed or if the product has been damaged by abuse or unauthorized modification and repair. There are no user serviceable parts inside.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Analog Sound of the MP -A Series. This is an all tube product, and there are some basics you should come to understand before using this product for the first time.

Tubes are a component that have specialized and unique features. If you are a "pre" or baby boomer, born before 1957, you may recall using tubes in various products, such as radios, amplifiers, and televisions. So, this is just to refresh your memory. If you are a "post" baby boomer, this could be your first experience with tubes, so please pay close attention! (You will be tested at the end of this manual).

Tubes are most efficient and effective when "warmed up." This means, upon starting the MP-A Series, you should allow the tubes to become fully heated before attempting to operate. The minimum amount of warm up time is approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

Set up your instrumentation layout before powering up the MP-A Series. Plug in your instrument or microphone while the unit is off. This will prevent unwanted noise such as "pops." The same applies when you shut down. Allow a minimum of 25 seconds for the power to drain from the tubes properly. Then you can unplug your instrument or microphone. Always turn your Phantom switch to the off position before plugging or un-plugging your Microphone.

Placing the MP-A Series in a rack, we recommend using the first tier or allow one x space in order to properly ventilate. Avoid overheating! Too much heat will reduce the life-span of your tubes. We also recommend strongly that you observe SPL and shock mount any tube product.

A Designs has scoured the earth for the perfect combination of tubes for this unique quality sound. Go ahead, get started. Read the following pages carefully to become acquainted with the warmth and clarity that the MP-A Series can deliver to your recordings.

Please feel free to email A Designs via the website with any creative applications for the use of the MP-A Series. We have included some applications in this manual. We may just include your suggestion on our website!

Congratulations on the purchase of your MP-A Series all tube microphone preamplifier!
Most of all have fun.

Peter Montessi, President
A Designs Audio LLC.

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FEATURES FOR STEREO
FOR MONO - SUBTRACT 1

- Vacuum-tube design
- Two (2) Level Volume Controls
- Two (2) Polarity Switches
- Two (2) Tone Switches
- Two (2) Phantom Switch
- Two (2) Backlit True VU Meters
- Red Jewel Lamp On/Off
- Two (2) Neutrik Combo XLR 1/4" Input Connectors
- Two (2) XLR Output Connectors
- Zero Feedback Loop
- Two (2) U-Rack Space
- Two (2) CineMag Input Transformers
- Two (2) Custom Wound Output Transformers
- Two (2) 6NI-P Tubes
- Two (2) EF86 Tubes
- Clean and airy high end
- Warmth, transparency, and quality sound.

In line with our company policy of continuous development, the above features are subject to change without notice.

SPECIFICATIONS

TECHNICAL DATA FOR THE MP-1 and MP-2 REMAINS THE SAME
Exceptions for the MP-2r are Noted

Input Impedance	1.4k Ohm
Gain Range	60dB
Noise (EIN)	-128
Mic Phantom	Switchable 48 Volt Power Source
Mic Input Phase	Switchable 0-180
Instrument Jack Input	1/4 phono
Input Impedance	Min > 100k Ohm
Balanced XLR Output:	
Output Impedance	600 Ohm Switchable to 10k
Maximum Level	+22 dBu
Output	Low-Z, transformer-balanced
Frequency Response	20 Hz - 60k Hz
Distortion	THD: > .08 @ 1 Khz
Power Requirements:	100/120/230 VAC - 42 Watts
Dimensions (W x H x D)	19" x 3.5" x 10"
Weight	18 lbs. 8.16kg (Shipping weight 20 lbs.) MP-1 17 lbs.

In line with our company policy of continuous development, the above specifications are subject to change without notice. Testing was performed BE Labs Oxnard, CA

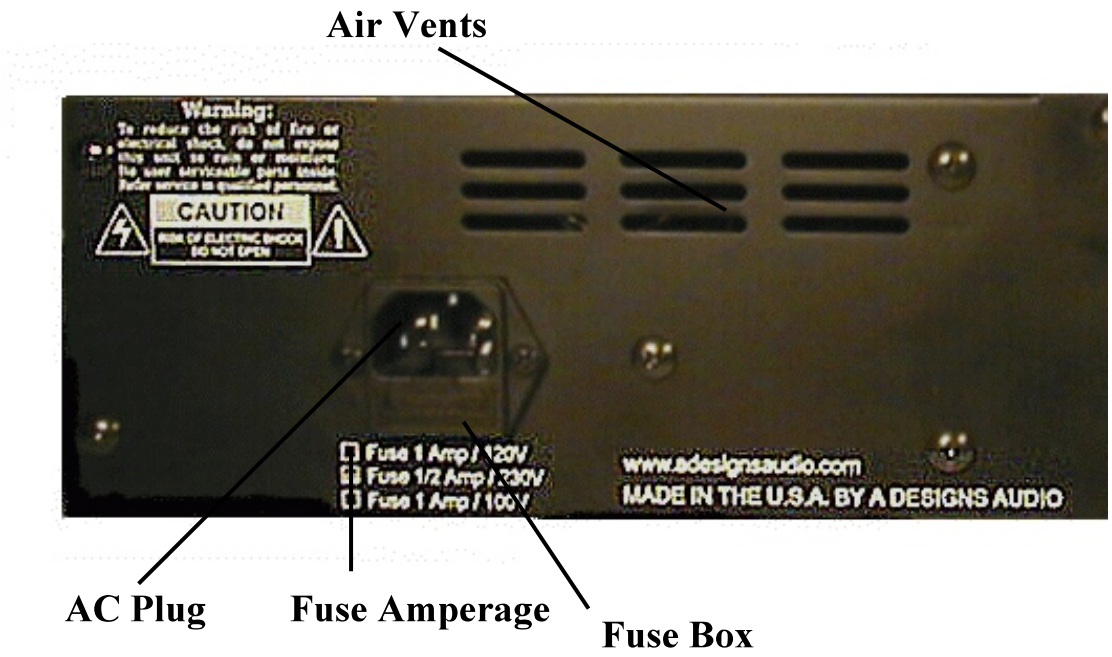
FUNCTIONS

* Channel 1&2 VU Meters - Meters provide general indication of level. They are set to -4dB.
* Level control knobs are just that. They will control the level/pad of the incoming signals.
* Polarity - 0 to 180
* Tone Switch ½ and 3/4 - This switch will allow you to set your outputs to your configuration.
* Phantom-On/Off - The Phantom Switch is there to give you the option of using various kinds of Microphones. If you are using a Condenser Microphone please make sure you have the Phantom Switch in the on position. If you turn the Phantom Power Switch off while the Mic is still plugged in there will be a 5 second delay before it is completely off.
*Heat Vents - Allow the flow and circulation of air to cool the tubes and transformers.
*Power Switch - Large size for easy operation up and down (on/off).
*Power Light Indicator - Red Jewel light indicator. When power is on... the light will illuminate.

FUNCTIONS

*Heat Vents - Allow the flow and circulation of air to cool the tubes and transformers.
*XLR outputs Balanced
*XLR inputs Balanced

FUNCTIONS

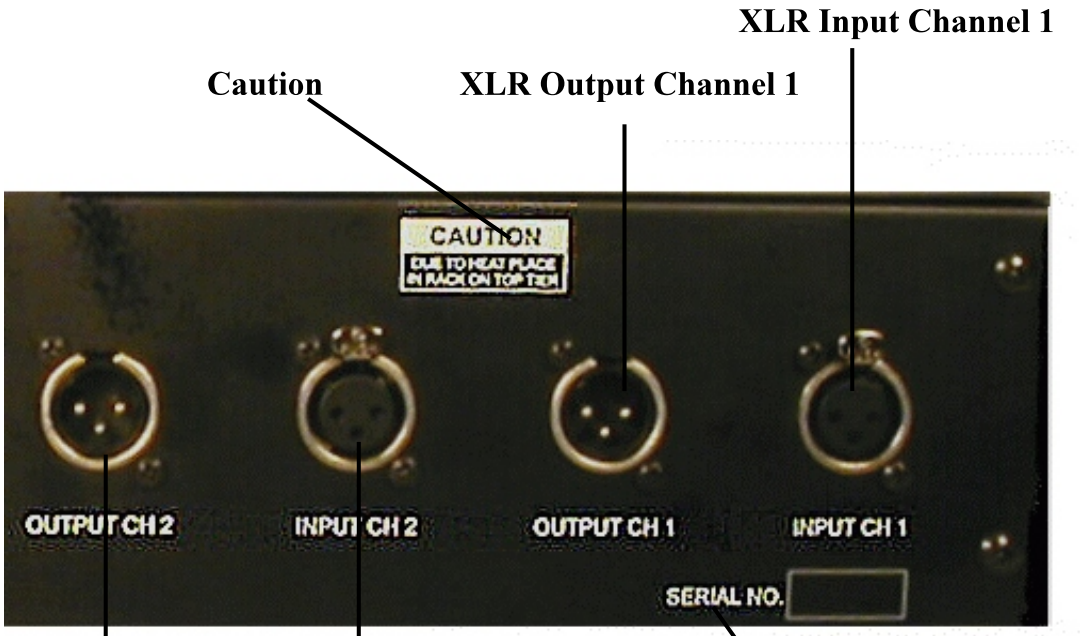


- AC Plug - For electrical outlet (caution: please check to see what Voltage your MP Series is set to). If the Voltage Box is not marked according to your country's code please notify A Designs before powering up.

●Fuse Amperage - These are placed on the MP Series to indicate which voltage your unit is set up for. USA Voltage should be set to 120v. For export to countries with 220v, the correct box should be marked at the back of the unit. If not marked or marked incorrectly, please notify A Designs before you turn your unit on!

●Fuse Box - This box acts as a fuse container draw. The Fuse draw will slide in and out for easy access to change your fuse, as necessary.

FUNCTIONS



to the Tubes. Please make sure you have proper spacing in the Rack. We recommend 1x spacing if used in a Rack mount. Or you can place the MP Series on the top tier of your Rack. Not allowing proper air flow voids the factory warranty.

XLR Outputs - The XLR output is balanced out and you have the option to change the output ohms from the face of the MP Series (600 ohms/ 10k) by using the OUTPUT Switch located on the front panel of the MP Series. XLR's are clearly marked indicating which Channel is being used.

XLR Inputs - The XLR input is used for Microphones. You can use the inputs for other instruments. If you are using a condenser Microphone, please make sure your Phantom Power is in the on position. The Phantom Power switch is located on the front panel. (See Illustration 1). XLR's are clearly marked indicating which Channel is being used.

Serial Number - If this serial number is removed or tampered with, your warranty will be void.

FUNCTIONS

The MP Series has a 2U rack space which fits nicely into any Studio Rack and will compliment your array.

UNIT SIZE:

Width: Standard 19 inches for easy Rack Mount installation.

Height: Standard 3.50 inches or 2U Rack Space.

Depth: 10 inches

Weight: 18 lbs 8.16 kg.

ALWAYS USE GOOD COMMON SENSE WHEN OPERATING ANY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DEALER OR THE MANUFACTURER BEFORE DOING ANYTHING!!!!!

APPLICATIONS

A good, quality microphone preamp will add a full, warm sound to any type of recording or live performance.

Generally, we begin by setting our input signal to unity, then concentrate on other devices such as compressors or effects for modifying the sound. But, this does not always have to be the case.

You will notice this unit is not cluttered with bells and whistles. ***Less is more.*** The MP Series was designed for simplicity. This has not restricted the sound, but enhanced it. This unit was designed to free your imagination to create music with unencumbered tonal qualities.

Mic-pre settings, as a rule, begin with gain structure, unity or 0db. Although this seems a great place to start, this may not always have the best application for your particular project. Try, what we call, "driving the tubes" on the MP Series, instead of introducing effects into a chain. Simply stated, ***try sending the input signal well into the red***. Many producers and engineers use this technique for bass guitars in rock/pop songs, and more recently, vocals in chorus.

Another technique audio engineers use, when recording an instrument in stereo, is to run one side in- phase and the other side out-of-phase. This trick tends to deceive the stereo image and also defuses bass boom ***by canceling out frequencies***. It may sound unusual, but surprisingly, there are large numbers of published Audio CD's where this technique has been employed to improve the overall sound.

Apart from creating special effects, the MP Series can be used to fix problematic recordings. An example of this would be a drum track that has gone out-of-phase.

APPLICATIONS

Try the following:

(1) Send the individual tracks to the MP Series.
(2) Change the phase switch on one of the tracks.
(3) Compare this with the bass response.

You will then be able to determine which tracks are in-phase and out-of-phase. This allows you to hear how much of the sound you are missing.

Above all, it is important to ***experiment***. Do not to leave the controls "set in stone." Most professional audio engineers and producers modify the mic-pre controls first, before moving on to a secondary unit.

Note: If you have a trick or tip that you would like to share with us, contact A Designs through our website or mail us at: Attention: Applications, P.O. Box 4255, West Hills, CA 91304. We will publish it on our website with your name, if you choose.